Corp. under the trade name of Carbolit 100, powder) were sufficiently mixed together to obtain cement powders. These powders were mixed with a carboxylate cement setting liquid (marketed from G-C Dental Industrial Corp. under the trade name of Carbolit 100, liquid) in a powder-liquid ratio of 1.7:1.0 g. The thus obtained dental cement was used for cementing of metal crowns or inlays. The crowns treated were the first or second molars of the lower jaws. By radiography, the distance between the cement layer and the pulps was found to be 0.5–0.7 mm. A total of 32 cases were examined. The pain the patients suffered was broken down into four grades, none, slight, unpleasant and acute. A total of 15 control cases were also examined wherein no acetyl tannate was used. The results are given in Table 4.

TABLE 4

Degree of irritation	Invention	Prior Art
Acute	0	1
Unpleasant	0	6
Slight	4	8
None	28	0

What is claimed is:

1. A dental cement powder composition comprising a dental cement powder and 0.005–5 percent by weight of one or more of tannic acid derivatives selected from the group consisting of a tannic acid-protein combination, a tannic acid-formaldehyde combination, acetyl tannate and a metal salt of tannic acid, said tannic acid derivatives being sparingly soluble in water, said tannic acid derivative being present in amount sufficient to reduce the solubility of the dental cement formed with the dental cement powder, wherein the dental cement powder is the powder of a dental cement which is a zinc phosphate cement, a polycarboxylate cement prepared from the reaction of a basic component and a polycarboxylic acid or a glass ionomer cement.

2. A dental cement powder composition as recited in claim **1**, in which said tannic acid derivative is albumin tannate.

3. A dental cement powder composition as recited in claim **1**, in which said tannic acid derivative is gelatin tannate.

4. A dental cement as recited in claim **1**, in which said tannic acid derivative is aluminum tannate.

5. A dental cement as recited in claim **1**, in which said tannic acid derivative is zinc tannate.

6. A dental cement as recited in claim **1**, in which said tannic acid derivative is calcium tannate.

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